

REMARKS

Favorable reconsideration of this application as presently amended, and in light of the following discussion is respectfully requested.

Prior to the filing of the attendant RCE, claims 1, 4-7, 13-15, 19 and 20 had been *finally* rejected under 35 USC §102(b) as being anticipated by *Hakim* (6,647,828). Claims 10-13 had been *finally* rejected under 35 USC §103(a) as being unpatentable over *Hakim*. Accordingly, claims 1, 4-7, 10-15, 19 and 20 remain active in the present application.

35 USC §102(b) REJECTION

Considering the final rejection of claims 1, 4-7, 13-15, 19, and 20 under 35 USC §102(b) as being anticipated by *Hakim*, it is submitted that applicant's claim 1, the sole independent claim under this rejection, has been amended so as to overcome the subject rejection. In particular, claim 1 has been amended to define the orientation of the claimed blade edges as depending substantially vertically from a lower surface of the core.

A review of *Hakim* fails to disclose any analogous structure. Rather, *Hakim* discloses a generally U-shaped core within the blade portion of the structure. The lower surface of the core is the bottom of the U-shape (see Figs. 6 and 6A). As such, the generally V-shaped blade edges of *Hakim* extend generally horizontally from the sides of the generally U-shaped core. It is respectfully submitted that no interpretation of the orientation of *Hakim* is possible that would suggest the supposed blade edges of *Hakim* depend vertically from a lower surface of the core.

As such, it is submitted that claim 1 defines over the cited prior art and that none of the remaining prior art, alone or in combination, teach such claimed feature. Further, it is submitted that Applicant's remaining dependent claims, which depend from and further limit claim 1, also patentably define over *Hakim*.

35 USC §103(a) REJECTION

With regard to the final rejection of claims 10-13 under 35 USC 103(a) as being unpatentable over *Hakim*, it is submitted that for the reasons indicated above applicant's claims 10-13 which depend from claim 1, as amended, patentably define over *Hakim*.

CONCLUSION

It is respectfully submitted that all claims are believed to be in condition for allowance as they have been amended to define over the cited prior art. It is further submitted that none of the remaining cited prior art, alone or in combination, teach, suggest, or make obvious the present invention as herein amended. Applicant requests acknowledgement of same and issuance of a Formal Notice of Allowance.

Respectfully submitted,
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